

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-48 are pending; Claims 23 and 24 are amended; Claim 21 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein; and no claims are newly added herewith. Because the present amendment places Claims 23 and 24 into independent form by incorporating the features of Claim 21 therein, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Based on a conversation with Examiner Owens on August 15, 2005, the Applicants have prepared the present amendment to place this application in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Katherine P. Barecchia

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Katherine P. Barecchia
Registration No. 50,607